Press release

Snow joke - what big freeze?

31 January 2001

Release number 455

On the day that provisional figures revealed England and Wales has had its sunniest January since 1959, Met Office forecasters are predicting a relatively normal start to February. This contradicts the forecast, issued last weekend by an independent source, which promised extreme 'Siberian' conditions over the coming weekend - a forecast which produced widespread interest and some concern across the country.

Ewen McCallum, Head of Forecasting at the Met Office, said: "The Met Office is often associated with headline-grabbing forecasts that have not come from us. We have never predicted Siberian cold weather for the coming weekend, and are confident that it won't happen, although some northeastern areas may stay chilly."

Notes:

An average of 2.43 hours of sunshine has been recorded across England and Wales this January. In 1959, the sunniest January since records began in 1909, an average of 2.58 hours per day was recorded.

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